United Nations A/58/94–S/2003/642

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
11 June 2003
English
Original: Russian

General Assembly
Fifty-eighth session
Items 28, 36, 58, 59, 95, 102 and 170 of the preliminary list*

The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security

Consequences of the Iraqi occupation of and aggression against Kuwait

United Nations reform: measures and proposals

Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields

Sustainable development and international economic cooperation

Globalization and interdependence

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Fifty-eighth year

Letter dated 10 June 2003 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Declaration by the heads of State of the members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, signed in Moscow on 29 May 2003 (see annex).

On behalf of the Permanent Missions to the United Nations of the member countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and as the representative of the country where the meeting took place, I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under items 28, 36, 58, 59, 95, 102 and 170 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sergey **Lavrov**

* A/58/50/Rev.1 and Corr.1.

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Annex to the letter dated 10 June 2003 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian and Chinese]

Declaration by the heads of State of the members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Moscow, 29 May 2003

The heads of State of the members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (hereinafter "SCO" or "the Organization") — the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan — met in Moscow at a crucial juncture, as SCO is entering the period of completion of its organizational establishment and beginning to function as an independent entity in international affairs, and they state the following:

I

The course of world events demonstrates that the decision to establish the Organization, taken in Shanghai on 15 June 2001, was a timely and appropriate response to the main trends in regional and world developments.

The SCO Charter, signed in St. Petersburg on 7 June 2002, created a solid legal foundation for the Organization's development and enabled it to become an important factor in maintaining peace and stability in the region and strengthening peace and development throughout the world.

Having reviewed the progress made in accomplishing the task set at the SCO summit last year, namely, the early launching of all the SCO mechanisms stipulated in the Charter, the heads of State consider that a great deal of useful work has been done in that direction in the period just past.

The heads of State approved the draft regulatory documents governing the working procedures of the SCO organs, including the standing organs — the Secretariat in Beijing and the Regional Counter-Terrorist Structure of SCO headquartered in Bishkek, and establishing the Organization's emblem and flag.

Upon the submission of the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the SCO member States, a decision was adopted confirming Zhang Deguang (People's Republic of China) as the SCO Executive Secretary.

The procedure for the preparation and implementation of the Organization's budget was agreed, and the heads of State signed the corresponding Agreement to that effect.

The heads of State emphasize the need to ensure the commencement of the work of the SCO standing organs not later than 1 January 2004.

In this context, it is important to ensure the timely entry into force of the SCO Charter and the Agreement on the Regional Counter-Terrorist Structure, the adoption of the Organization's first budget at the meeting of the Council of Heads of Government (Prime Ministers) scheduled to take place in autumn of this year in

China, and the completion in 2003 of the elaboration of the financial regulations and rules of the Organization and the draft documents stipulated in the Agreement on the Regional Counter-Terrorist Structure.

It is also considered necessary to expedite the establishment of the Council of the Regional Counter-Terrorist Structure to address questions arising from the Agreement on the Regional Counter-Terrorist Structure.

The heads of State deemed it advisable to instruct the Council of National Coordinators, with the involvement of appropriate experts from the parties, to pursue its efforts to agree the specific issues relating to the launching of the SCO mechanisms.

II

SCO is aimed at developing through joint efforts relations of partnership on the great expanse uniting our countries and on a broad agenda, which includes cooperation in the political, trade, economic and humanitarian spheres and in countering contemporary threats and challenges.

While assessing positively the progress made in institutionalizing and consolidating the substantive collaboration within SCO in various fields in the period since the St. Petersburg summit, the heads of State draw attention to the need to ensure effective cooperation among foreign policy, defence and law enforcement departments, emergency services, ministries of foreign economic relations, transport and culture, and other government structures.

The forthcoming meeting of the Council of Heads of Government (Prime Ministers) will be of vital importance. The preparations for the meeting should help to intensify the ongoing process of negotiations on the establishment of favourable conditions for trade and investment and on the completion of the drafting of the long-term programme of multilateral trade and economic cooperation, in accordance with the Memorandum of 14 September 2001 between the Governments of the SCO member States.

The heads of State emphasize the importance of intensifying the contacts between foreign policy departments, including within international organizations, first and foremost the United Nations, on topical issues of international affairs.

The heads of State reaffirm that today SCO, at the stage of its establishment and the launching of its standing organs, is ready, following the principle of openness, to make contacts with other international organizations and States, irrespective of their geographical location, in conformity with the Interim Plan approved by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs on 23 November 2002.

III

The heads of State note that the modern world, with all the diversity of its political and economic systems, is changing rapidly. Not only the political structure is changing, but also the entire international security system. It is necessary to develop and implement a new concept of security based on mutual trust, mutual advantage, equality of rights and cooperation.

They reaffirm the need to observe and realize the basic purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the universally recognized norms of international law.

The diversity of human civilization should be respected and its development facilitated. Different cultures should progress together, taking the best from one another and striving for commonalties while leaving their differences aside.

It is important to promote the even and sustainable growth of the world economy with a view to achieving prosperity for all States.

IV

The heads of State note that recognition of the important role of the United Nations and the Security Council in resolving major international problems is of fundamental importance. The United Nations can and must be reformed to keep abreast of the fast-changing world situation, taking into account, first and foremost, the need for effective solutions to world political and security problems.

The SCO member States proceed from the assumption that one of the main areas of work for the United Nations should be preventive measures to avert conflicts in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law.

The SCO member States believe that the United Nations should have an important role to play in the reconstruction of Iraq. A precondition for that country's transition to a life of peace and the building of a prosperous and democratic society is respect for the national interests and sovereign rights of the Iraqi people and concrete and effective aid on the part of the international community.

V

The SCO member States believe that no one country in the world can ward off contemporary terrorism, the threat posed by illegal drugs and other transborder challenges at a time of growing globalization of political, economic and social processes. In this context, the pressing need for broad collaboration among all countries at both the regional and local levels, and for a practical contribution by each nation to the solution of these truly global problems, is beyond doubt.

The SCO member States, recognizing the transnational nature of contemporary terrorism and being in the forefront of the fight against its practical manifestations, are following a course of mutual cooperation and vigorous participation in the efforts of the world community in the struggle against terrorism, in particular, by cutting off its funding channels. In this matter they assign an important role to close collaboration between the law enforcement agencies and secret services and the defence agencies of the SCO member States.

Along with promoting collaboration within SCO, the member States of the Organization intend to cooperate vigorously with the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee. They attach great importance to the early finalization by the United Nations of the draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism and a comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

At the same time, the SCO member States consistently and invariably proceed from the assumption that the fight against terrorism must be waged on the basis of the norms and principles of international law, and must not be identified with a fight against any religion, individual countries or nationalities.

The problem of illegal trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors is becoming more and more threatening. It calls for the most effective measures on the part of the international community, not least because drug trafficking is one of the financial bulwarks of international terrorism. The SCO member States are making practical efforts to initiate collaboration within the Organization in order to fight illegal trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors, and to this end will conclude an appropriate multilateral agreement before the end of 2003.

The goal of intensifying multilateral cooperation in countering the threat of illegal drugs from Afghanistan — one that is already acquiring global dimensions — is particularly acute today. In this context, the SCO member States consider it an opportune moment for the elaboration, under United Nations auspices, of an international strategy for comprehensive action to counter the threat of Afghan illegal drugs, and reiterate their firm commitment to close cooperation with the United Nations and other international organizations within the framework of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme.

The SCO member States express support for the efforts of the transitional Government of Afghanistan to stabilize the situation in the country. They consider that the latest world developments should not detract from the efforts of the world community in favour of the economic reconstruction of Afghanistan.

The SCO member States are firmly convinced that success in the fight against present dangers depends in large measure on solutions to socio-economic problems, including the eradication of poverty, mass unemployment, illiteracy and discrimination on the grounds of race, ethnicity or religion. The drafting under the auspices of the United Nations of a global strategy for countering new threats and challenges could be the key to the search for effective solutions to security problems.

VI

The SCO member States are convinced that SCO can and should make a tangible contribution to secure and sustainable development, not just in its own area, but in the world as a whole. SCO is ready to participate actively in building a regional security system that would respect equally the interests and approaches of all participants, and it will constructively cooperate with all States and alliances in this important matter.

The SCO member States believe that in a time of globalization, the role of factors such as the maintenance and strengthening of strategic stability, including the problem of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, far from diminishing, is growing in many respects.

Today it is more important than ever to unite the efforts of the international community in a search for ways of jointly building a structure and architecture of international security in the twenty-first century that would be acceptable to all States.

The SCO member States are confident that the imperative of collaborative actions in the face of common dangers will prevail in the world and that humankind will opt in favour of a democratic world order that would guarantee ongoing progress and equal security for all nations in the world.

(*Signed*) **Hu** Jintao
President of the People's Republic of China

(*Signed*) N. A. **Nazarbayev**
President of the Republic of Kazakhstan

(*Signed*) A. A. **Akayev**
President of the Kyrgyz Republic

(*Signed*) V. V. **Putin**
President of the Russian Federation

(*Signed*) E. S. **Rakhmonov**
President of the Republic of Tajikistan

(*Signed*) I. A. **Karimov**
President of the Republic of Uzbekistan